

At 107. 107.

# L A W

I S A 1485. 6. 1.

## Bottomless-Pit.

Exemplify'd in the C A S E of  
The Lord Strutt, John Bull,  
Nicholas Frog, and Lemis Baboon:  
Who spent all they had in a Law-Suit.

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*Printed from a Manuscript found in the Cabinet of  
the famous Sir Humphrey Polesworth.*

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# *Law is a Bottomless-Pit.*

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## C H A P. I.

### *The Occasion of the Law-Suit.*

**I** Need not tell you of the great Quarrels that have happen'd in our Neighbourhood, since the Death of the late Lord *Strutt*; how the Parson and a cunning Attorney, got him to settle his Estate upon his Cousin *Philip Baboon*, to the great Disappointment of his Cousin *Esquire South*. Some stick not to say, that the Parson and the Attorney forg'd a Will, for which they were well paid by the Family of the *Baboons*: Let that be as it will, it is matter of Fact, that the Honour and Estate have continued ever since in the Person of *Philip Baboon*.

You know that the Lord *Strutts* have for many Years been possess'd of a very great Landed Estate, well condition'd, wooded, water'd, with Coal, Salt, Tin, Copper, Iron,

&c. all within themselves; that it has been the Misfortune of that Family, to be the Property of their Stewards, Tradersmen, and interior Servants, which has brought great Incumbrances upon them; at the same time, not abating of their expensive way of Living, has forc'd them to mortgage their best Mansions: It is credibly reported, that the Butchers and Bakers Bills of a Lord *Strutt* that lived Two hundred Years ago, are not yet paid.

When *Philip Baboon* came first to the Possession of the Lord *Strutt's* Estate, his Tradersmen, as is usual upon such Occasions, waited upon him to wish him Joy, and bespeak his Custom: The two chief were *John Bull* the Clothier, and *Nic. Frog* the Linnen-draper; they told him, that the *Bulls* and *Frogs* had served the Lord *Strutts* with Drapery Ware for many Years; that they were honest and fair Dealers; that their Bills had never been question'd; that the Lord *Strutts* lived generously, and never used to dirty their Fingers with Pen, Ink and Counters; that his Lordship might depend upon their Honesty, that they would use him as kindly as they had done his Predecessors. The Young Lord seem'd to take all in good part, and dismiss'd them with a deal of seeming Content, assuring them he did not intend to change any of the honourable Maxims of his Predecessors.



## C H A P. II.

*How Bull and Frog grew jealous that the Lord Strutt intended to give all his Custom to his Grandfather Lewis Baboon.*

**I**T happen'd unfortunately for the Peace of our Neighbourhood, that this Young Lord had an old cunning Rogue (or as the Scots call it) a *false Loon*, of a Grandfather, that one might justly call a *Jack of all Trades*; sometimes you would see him behind his Counter selling broad Cloath, sometimes measuring Linnen, next Day he would be dealing in Mercery Ware; high Heads, Ribbons, Gloves, Fans and Lace, he understood to a Nicety; *Charles Mather* could not Bubble a young Beau better with a Toy; nay, he would descend even to the selling of Tape, Garters, and Shoe-Buckles: When Shop was shut up, he would go about the Neighbourhood and earn Half a Crown by teaching the young Men and Maids to Dance. By these Methods he had acquir'd immense Riches, which he used to squander away at Back Sword, Quarter-Staff, and Cudgell-Play, in which he took great Pleasure, and challeng'd all the Country.

try. You will say it is no Wonder if *Bull* and *Frog* should be jealous of this Fellow. ' It is not impossible (says *Frog* to *Bull*, but this old Rogue will take the Management of the young Lord's Business into his Hands; besides the Ratcal has good Ware, and will serve him as cheap as any Body in that Case: leave you to judge what must become of us and our Families, we must starve or turn Journeyment to old *Lewis Baboon*; therefore Neighbour, I hold it advisable, that we write to young *Lord Strutt* to know the Bottom of this Matter.

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### C H A P. III.

#### *A Copy of Bull and Frog's Letter to Lord Strutt.*

My LORD,

**I** Suppose your Lordship knows that the Bulls and the Frogs have served the Lord Strutts with all Sorts of Drapery Ware, Time out of Mind; and whereas we are jealous, not without Reason, that your Lordship intends henceforth to buy of your Grandfire old *Lewis Baboon*; this is to inform your Lordship, that this Proceeding does not suit with the Circumstances of our Families, who have lived

ved and made a good Figure in the World by the  
 generosity of the Lord Strutt: Therefore we think  
 to acquaint your Lordship, that you must find  
 sufficient Security to us, our Heirs and Assigns,  
 that you will not employ Lewis Baboon, or else  
 we will take our Remedy at Law, clap an Action  
 upon you of 20000 lib. for old Debts, seize and  
 restrain your Goods and Chattels, which, conside-  
 ring your Lordships Circumstances, will plunge you  
 into Difficulties, from which it will not be easy to  
 extricate your self; therefore we hope, when your  
 Lordship has better considered on it, you will comply  
 with the Desire of

Your loving Friends,

John Bull.

Nic. Frog.

Some of Bull's Friends advised him to take  
 gentler Methods with the young Lord; but  
 John naturally lov'd rough Play. It is im-  
 possible the Surprize of the Lord Strutt upon  
 the Receipt of this Letter; he was not flush in  
 Ready, either to go to Law or clear old Debts,  
 neither could he find good Bail: He offer'd  
 to bring Matters to a friendly Accomodation;  
 and promis'd upon his Word of Honour, that  
 he would not change his Drappers; but all to  
 no Purpose, for Bull and Frog saw clearly, that  
 old Lewis would have the Cheating of him.

## C H A P. IV.

*How Bull and Frog went to Law with Lord Strutt about the Premisses, and were joined by the rest of the Tradesmen.*

**A**LL Endeavours of Accommodation between Lord Strutt and his Drappers prov'd vain, Jealousies encreas'd, and indeed it was rumour'd abroad, that Lord Strutt had bespoke his new Liveries of old Lewis Baboon. This coming to Mrs. Bull's Ears, when John Bull came Home he found all his Family in an Uproar. Mrs. Bull you must know was very apt to be Cholerick. *You Sot, says she, you loyter about Alehouses and Taverns, spend your Time at Billiards, Nine-pins or Puppet-shows, or flaunt about the Streets in your new built Chariot, never minding me nor your numerous Family; don't you hear how Lord Strutt has bespoke his Liveries at Lewis Baboon's Shop? don't you see how that old Fox steals away your Customers, and turns you out of your Business every Day, and you sit like an idle Drone with your Hands in your Pockets? Fie upon't, up Man, rouse thyself; I'll sell to my Shift before I'll be so used by that Kna've. You must think Mrs. Bull had been pretty well tun'd up by Frog, who chim'd in with her learn'd Harangue.*



language. No further Delay now, but to Counsel learn'd in the Law they go, who unanimously assur'd 'em both of the Justice and infallible Success of their Law-Suit.

I told you before, that old *Lewis Baboon* was a Sort of a *Jack of all Trades*, which made the rest of the Tradesmen jealous, as well as *Bull* and *Frog*; they hearing of the Quarrel, were glad of an Opportunity of joining against old *Lewis Baboon*, provided that *Bull* and *Frog* would bear the Charges of the Suit; even *lying Ned* the Chimney-sweeper and *Tom* the Dust-man put in their Claims, and the Cause was put into the Hands of *Humphrey Hocus* the Attorney.

A Declaration was drawn up to show, 'That *Bull* and *Frog* had undoubted Right by Prescription to be Drappers to the Lord *Strutt*; that there were several old Contracts to that Purpose; that *Lewis Baboon* had taken up the Trade of Clothier and Draper, without serving his Time, or purchasing his Freedom; that he sold Goods that were not marketable, without the Stamp; that he himself was more fit for a Bully than a Tradesman, and went about through all the Country Fairs challenging People to fight Prizes, Wrestling and Cudgel-Play: And Abundance more to his Purpose.



## CHAP. V.

*The true Characters of John Bull, Nic. Frog, and Hocus.*

**F**OR the better understanding the following History, the Reader ought to know, that *Bull*, in the main, was an honest plain-dealing Fellow, cholerick, bold, and of a very unconstant Temper, he dreaded no Old *Lewis* either at Back-Sword, single Foul-cion, or Cudgel play; but then he was very apt to quarrel with his best Friends, especially if they pretended to govern him: If you flatter'd him, you might lead him like a Child. *John's* Temper depended very much upon the Air; his Spirits rose and fell with the Weather-Glass. *John* was quick, and understood his Business very well, but no Man alive was more careless, in looking into his Accounts, or more cheated by Partners, Apprentices, and Servants: This was occasioned by his being a Boon Companion, loving his Bottle and Diversion; for to say Truth, no Man kept a better House than *John*, nor spent his Money more generously. By plain and fair Dealing *John* had acquir'd some Plumbs, and might have kept them, had it not been for his unhappy Law-Suit.

*Nic. Frog* was a cunning sly Whoreson, quite the reverse of *John* in many Particulars ; Covetous, Frugal ; mind'd domestick Affairs, would pine his Belly to save his Pocket, never lost a Farthing by careless Servants, or bad Debtors : He did not care much for any sort of Diversions, except Tricks of *High-Germain* Artists, and *Leger de main* : No man exceeded *Nic.* in these, yet it must be own'd, That *Nic.* was a fair Dealer, and in that Way had acquir'd immense Riches.

*Hocus* was an old cunning Attorney, what he wanted of Skill in Law, was made up by a Cleck which he kept, that was the prettiest Fellow in the World ; he lov'd Money, was smooth tongu'd, gave good Words, and seldom lost his Temper : He was not worse than a Venial Infidel : for he provided plentifully for his Family, but he loved himself better than them all : He had a tarmagant Wife, and as the Neighbours said, was plaguy Hen-peck'd ; he was seldom observed, as some Attornies will be in practice, to give his own personal Evidence in Causes ; he rather choole to do it *per. test.* *conduct* : in a Word, the Man was very well for an Attorney.

## CHAP. VI.

*Of the various S of the Law-Suit*

**L**AW is a Bottomless-Pit, it is a Cormorant  
a Harpy, that devours every Thing: *John*  
*Bull* was flatter'd by his Lawyers that  
his Suit would not last above a Year or two at  
most; that before that Time he would be in  
quiet Possession of his Business; yet ten long  
Years did *Hocus* steer his Cause through all the  
Meanders of the Law, and all the Courts; no  
Skill, no Address, was wanting; and to say  
Truth, *John* did not starve the Cause; they  
wanted not *Yellow Boys* to see Counsel, hire Wit-  
nesses, and bribe Juries. Lord *Strutt* was  
generally Cast, never had one Verdict in his  
Favour: and *John* was promis'd, That the  
next and the next would be the final Deter-  
mination; but alas! that final Determination  
and happy Conclusion was like an enchanted  
Island, the nearer *John* came to it, the further  
it went from him. New Trials upon new  
Points still arose; new Doubts, new Matters  
to be cleared; in short, Lawyers seldom part  
with so good a Cause till they have got the  
Oyster and their Clients the Shell. *John's*  
ready Money, Book-Debts, Bonds, Mortgages,  
all went into the Lawyers-Pockets; then

*John*

John began to borrow Money upon Bank-Stock East-India Bonds, now and then a Farm went to Pot: At last it was thought expedient to set up Elquire South's Title to prove the Will forg'd, and dispossess Philip Lord Strutt at once; here again was a new Field for the Lawyers, and the Cause grew more intricate than ever. John grew madder and madder, wherever he met any of Strutt's Servants, he tore of their Cloaths; now and then you would see them come home naked, without Shoes, Stockings and Linnen. As for Old Lewis Bacon, he was reduced to his last Shift, tho' he had as many as any other: His Children were reduced from rich Silks to Doily Stuffs, his Servants in Rags and bare-footed, instead of good Victuals, they now lived on Neck-Beef and Bullocks-Liver; in short, no Body got much by the Matter, but the Men of Law.

## CHAP. VII.

*How John Bull was so mightily pleas'd with his Success, that he was going to leave off his Trade, and turn Lawyer.*

IT is wisely observed by a great Philosopher, That Habite is a Second Nature: This



This was verifi'd in the Case of *John Bull*, who from an honest and plain Tradesman, had got such a Haunt about the Courts of Justice and such a Jargon of Law-words, That he concluded himself as able a Lawyer, as any that pleaded at the Bar, or sat on the Bench : He was overheard one Day, talking to himself after this Manner, ' How capriciously does Fate or Chance dispose of Mankind? How seldom is that Business allotted to a Man for which he is fitted by Nature? It is plain I was intended for a Man of Law : How did my Guardians mistake my Genius, in placing me, like a mean Slave, behind a Counter? Bless me! What Immense Estates these Fellows raise by the Law? Besides it is the Profession of a Gentleman: What a Pleasure it is to be victorious in a Cause! To swager at the Bar? What a Fool am I to drudge any more in this Woolen-Trade! For a Lawyer I was born, and a Lawyer I will be; one is never too Old to learn!'

All this while *John* had con'd over such a Catalogue of hard Words, as were enough to conjure up the Devil; these he used to bubble indifferently in all Companies, especially at Coffee-houses; so that his Neighbour Tradesmen began to shun his Company as a Man that was crack'd. Instead of the Affairs of *Blackwell-Hall* and Price of Broad-cloath, Wool, and Bayes, he

talk'd



talk'd of nothing but *Actions upon the Case, Re-  
 turns, Capias, Alias capias, Demurrers, Venire  
 facias, Replevins, Superfeda's, Certiorari's, Writs  
 of Error, Actions of Trover and Conversion, Tres-  
 passes, Precipes & Dedimus*: This was Matter of  
 self to the learned in Law; however *Hocus*, and  
 the rest of the Tribe, encourag'd *John* in his Fancy  
 assuring him, that he had a great Genius for Law;  
 That they question'd not but in time, he might  
 raise Money enough by it to reimburse him of  
 all his Charges; That if he study'd, he would  
 undoubtedly arrive to the Dignity of a Lord  
 Chief Justice; as for the Advice of honest  
 Friends and Neighbours, *John* despis'd it; he  
 look'd upon them as Fellows of a low Genius,  
 poor grovelling Mechanicks; *John* reckon'd  
 it more Honour to have got one favourable  
 Verdict, than to have sold a Bale of Broad-  
 cloth. As for *Nic. Frog*, to say the Truth, he  
 was more prudent, for tho' he follow'd his  
 Law-Suit closely, he neglected not his ordina-  
 ry Business, but was both in Court and in his  
 Shop at the proper Hours.

## C H A P. VIII.

*How John discover'd that Hocus had an  
Intrigue with his Wife, and what fol-  
low'd thereupon.*

**J**ohn had not run on a madding so long, had it not been for an extravagant Bitch of a Wife, whom *Hocus* perceiving *John* to be fond of, was resolv'd to win over to his Side. It is a true Saying, *That the last Man of the Parish that knows of his Cuckoldom, is himself.* It was observed by all the Neighbourhood that *Hocus* had Dealings with *John's* Wife, that were not so much for his Honour ; but this was perceived by *John* a little too late : She was a luxurious Jade, lov'd splendid Equipages, Plays, Treats and Balls, differing very much from the sober Manners of her Ancestors, and by no means fit for a Tradesman's Wife. *Hocus* fed her Extravagancy ( which was still more shameful ) with *John's* own Money. Every Body said that *Hocus* had a Month's Mind to her Body ; be that as it will it is Matter of Fact, that upon all Occasions she run out extravagantly on the Praise of *Hocus*. When *John* us'd to be finding fault with his

his Bills, she us'd to reproach him as ungrateful to his greatest Benefactor ; One that had taken so much Pains in his Law-Suit, and reliev'd his Family from the Oppression of Old Lewis Baboon. A good swelling Sum of John's readiest Cash, went towards building of Hocus's Country-House. This Affair between Hocus and Mrs. Bull was now so open, that all the World were scandaliz'd at it ; John was not so Clod-pated, but at last he took the hint. The Parson of the Parish preaching one day a little sharply against Adultery, Mrs. Bull told her Husband, That he was a very uncivil Fellow to use such coarse Language before People of Condition, That Hocus was of the same mind, and that they would join to have him turn'd out of his Living for using personal Reflections. How do you mean, says John, by personal Reflections ? I hope in God, Wife, he did not reflect upon you. ' No, thank God, my Reputation is too well established in the World to receive any Hurt from such a foul Mouth'd Scoundrel as he ; his Doctrine tends only to make Husbands Tyrants, and Wives Slaves ; must we be shut up, and Husbands left to their Liberty ? Very pretty indeed ; a Wife must never go abroad with a Platonick to see a Play or Ball, she must never stir without her Husband, nor walk in Spring-Garden with a Cousin.

‘ I do say, Husband, and I will stand by it  
 ‘ That without the innocent Freedoms of Life  
 ‘ Matrimony would be a most intolerable State  
 ‘ and that a Wife’s Virtue, ought to be the Re-  
 ‘ sult of her own Reason, and not of her Hus-  
 ‘ band’s Government ; for my Part, I would  
 ‘ scorn a Husband that would be Jealous,  
 ‘ he saw a Fellow a-bed with me”. All this  
 while *John’s* Blood boil’d in his Veins, he was  
 now confirm’d in all his Suspicions; Jade, Bitch  
 and Whore were the best Words that *John*  
 gave her. Things went from better to worse  
 ‘Till *Mrs. Bull* aim’d a Knife at *John*, tho’ *John*  
 threw a Bottle at her Head very brutally in-  
 deed : After this there was nothing but Con-  
 fusion; Bottles, Glasses, Spoons, Plates, Knives  
 Forks, and Dishes flew about like Dust, the  
 Result of which was, That *Mrs. Bull* receiv’d  
 a Bruise in her Right-side, of which she dy’d  
 half a Year after : The Bruise imposthumated  
 and afterwards turn’d to a stinking Ulcer, which  
 made every Body shie to come near her she  
 smelt so ; yet she wanted not the Help of ma-  
 ny able Physicians, who attended very dili-  
 gently, and did what Men of Skill could do  
 but all to no purpose, for her Condition was  
 now quite desperate, all regular Physicians and  
 her nearest Relations having giv’n her over.



## CHAP. IX:

*How Signior Cavallo, an Italian Quack, undertook to cure Mrs. Bull of her Ulcer.*

There is nothing so impossible in Nature, but Montebanks will undertake; nothing so incredible, but they will affirm: Mrs. Bull's Condition was look'd upon as desperate by all the Men of Art; then Signior Cavallo judg'd it was high Time for him to interpose, he bragg'd that he had an infallible Ointment and Plaister, which being applied to the Sore would cure it in a few Days, at the same Time he would give her a Pill that would purge off all her bad Humours, sweeten her Blood, and rectifie her disturb'd Imagination: In Spite of all Signior Cavallo's Applications the Patient grew worse, every Day she stank so no Body durst come within a Stone's Throw of her except Signior Cavallo and his Wife, whom he sent every Day to dress her, she having a very gentle soft Hand. All this while Signior apprehended no Danger. If one ask'd him how Mrs. Bull did? Better and better, says Signior Cavallo; the Parts heal, and her Constituti-



on mends ; if she submits to my Government she will be abroad in a little Time. Nay it is reported, that he wrote to her Friends in the Country, that she would dance a Jig next October in *Westminster-Hall* ; that her Illness had been chiefly owing to bad Physicians. At last Signior one Day was sent for in great Haste his Patient growing worse and worse ; when he came he affirmed, that it was a gross Mistake, that she was never in a fairer Way. Bring hither the Salve, says he, and give her a plentiful Draught of my Cordial. As he was applying his Ointments, and administering the Cordial, the Patient gave up the Ghost, to the great Confusion of Signior *Cavallo*, and the great Joy of *Bull* and his Friends. Signior flung away out of the House in great Disorder, and swore there was foul Play, for he was sure his Medicines were infallible. Mrs. *Bull* having dy'd without any Signs of Repentance or Devotion, the Clergy would hardly allow her Christian Burial. The Relations had once resolved to sue *John* for the Murder, but considering better of it, and that such a Trial would rip up old Sores, and discover Things not so much to the Reputation of the deceased, they drop'd their Design. She left no Will, only there was found in her strong Box the following Words wrote on a Script of Paper, *My Curse on John Bull and all my Posterity, if ever they come*

ment to any Composition with my Lord Strutt. There  
it were many Epitaphs writ upon her, one was as  
in the follows.

*Here lyes John's Wife,  
Plague of his Life;  
She spent his Wealth,  
She wrong'd his Health,  
And left him Daughters three  
As bad as she.*

*K. Will.*

The Daughters Names were *Polemia, Discordia*  
and *Usuria*.

## C H A P. X.

*Of John Bull's second Wife, and the good  
Advice that she gave him.*

**T**O H N quickly got the better of his Grief,  
and being that neither his Constitution,  
nor the Affairs of his Family could permit him  
to live in an unmarried State, he resolved to  
get him another Wife; a Cousin of his last  
Wife's was propos'd, but John would have  
no more of the Breed: In short, he wedded  
only a sober Country Gentlewoman, of a good Fa-  
mily, and a plentiful Fortune; the Reverse  
of the other in her Temper, not but that she  
lov'd Mony, for she was of a saving Temper,  
and

*R. 2.*

and apply'd her Fortune to pay *John's* clamorous Debts, that the unfrugal Methods of his last Wife, and this ruinous Law Suit, had brought him into. One Day, as she had got her Husband in good Humour, she talked to him after the following Manner. ' My Dear  
 ' since I have been your Wife I have observed  
 ' great Abuses and Disorders in your Family  
 ' your Servants are mutinous and quarrelsome  
 ' and cheat you most abominably; your Cook  
 ' Maid is in a Combination with your Butcher,  
 ' Poulterer and Fishmonger; your Butcher  
 ' purloins your Liquor, and your Brewer  
 ' sells your Hogwash; your Baker cheats both  
 ' in Weight and in Tale; even your Milkwoman  
 ' and your Nursery-Maid have a Fellowship  
 ' feeling; your Taylor, instead of Shreds, cuts  
 ' bages whole Yards of Cloth; besides leaving  
 ' such long Scores, and not going to Market  
 ' with ready Money, forces us to take bare  
 ' Ware of the Tradesmen, at their own Prices.  
 ' You have not posted your Books these Ten  
 ' Years; how is it possible for a Man of Business  
 ' to keep his Affairs even in the World at  
 ' this Rate? 'Pray God this *Hocus* be honest  
 ' would to God you would look over his Bill  
 ' and see how Matters stand betwixt *Frog* and  
 ' you; prodigious Sums are spent in this Law  
 ' Suit, and more must be borrow'd of Scriv-  
 ' eners or Usurers at heavy Interest; beside

my Dear, let me beg of you to lay aside that wild Project of leaving your Business to turn *Lawier*, for which, let me tell you, Nature never designed you. Believe me, these Rogues do but flatter, that they may pick your Pocket: *John* heard her all this while with Patience, 'till she prick'd his Maggot, and touch'd him in the tender Point ; then he broke out into a violent Passion, 'What, I not fit for a Lawyer ! let me tell you, my Clodpated Relations spoil'd the greatest Genius in World, when they bred me a Mechanick. Lord *Strutt* and his old Rogue of a Grandfire have found to their Cost, that I can manage a Law Suit as well as another. I do not deny what you say, says *Mrs. Bull*, nor do I call in Question your Parts, but I say it does not suit with your Circumstances; you and your Predecessors have liv'd in good Reputation among your Neighbours by this same Clothing Trade, and it were Madness to leave it off. Besides, there are few that know all the Tricks and Cheats of these Lawyers ; does not your own Experience teach you how they have drawn you on from one Term to another, and how you have danc'd the Round of all the Courts, still flattering you with a final Issue, and for ought I can see your Cause is not a bit clearer than it was seven Years ago. I will be damn'd,

says



‘ says *John*, if I accept of any Composition  
 ‘ from *Strutt* or his Grandfather; I’ll rather  
 ‘ wheel about the Streets an Engine to grind  
 ‘ Knives and Scissors; however I’ll take your  
 ‘ Advice, and look over my Accounts.

## C H A P. XI.

*How John look’d over his Attorney’s Bill.*

**W**HEN *John* first brought out the Bills, the Surprize of all the Family was unexpressible, at the prodigious Dimensions of them; in short, they would have measur’d with the best Bale of Cloath in *John’s* Shop. Fees to Judges, puny Judges, Clerks, Prothonotaries, Philizeers, Chirographers, Underclerks, Proclamators, Counsel, Witnesses, Jury-men, Marshals, Tipstuffs, Cryers, Porters; for Enrollings, Exemplifications, Bails, Vouchers, Returns, Caveats, Examinations, Filings of Words, Entries, Declarations, Replications, Recordats, *Nolle Prosequi’s*, *Certiorari’s*, *Mittimus*, Demurrers, Special Verdicts, Informations, *Scire Facias*, *Supersedeas*, *habeas Corpus*, Coach-hire, Treating of Witnesses, &c. *Keily*, says *John*, there are a prodigious Number of learned Words in this Law, what a pretty Science it is! Ay, but Husband, you have paid for every



every Syllable and Letter of these fine Words ; bless me, what immense Sums are at the Bottom of the Accompt ! John spent several Weeks in looking over his Bills, and by comparing and stating his Accompts, he discovered that, besides the Extravagance of every Article, he had been egregiously cheated ; that he had paid for Counsel that were never see'd, for Writs that were never drawn, for Dinners that were never dress'd, and Journeys that were never made : In short, that *Hocus* and *Frog* had agreed to throw the Burden of the Law-Suit upon his Shoulders.

## C H A P. XII.

*How John grew Angry, resolved to accept a Composition ; and what Methods were practis'd by the Lawyers for keeping him from it.*

**W**ELL might the learned *Daniel Burgess* say, *That a Law-Suit is a Suit for Life.* He that sows his Grain upon Marble, will have many a hungry Belly before Harvest. This John felt by woful Experience. John's Cause was a good milch Cow, and many a Man subsisted his Family out of it. However John began to think it high time to look about him ;

he had a Cousin in the Country, one Sir Roger Bold, whose Predecessors had been bred up to the Law, and knew as much of it as any Body; but having left off the Profession for some time, they took great Pleasure in Compounding Law-Suits amongst their Neighbours, for which they were the Aversion of the Gentlemen of the Long-Robe, and at perpetual War with all the Country Attorneys. John put his Cause in Sir Roger's Hands, desiring him to make the best of it; the News had no sooner reach'd the Ears of the Lawyers, but they were all in an Uproar: They brought all the rest of the Tradesmen upon John. Squire South swore he was betray'd, that he would starve before he compounded; Fro said he was highly wrong'd; ev'n lying Ned the Chimney-sweeper, and Tom the Dust-man complain'd, that their Interest was sacrific'd. As for Hocus's Wife, she took a Hackney Chair and came to John's House immediately and fell a scolding at his Wife like the Mother of Belzebub, ' You silly, awkward, ill-bred Country Sow you, have you no more Manners than to rail at my Husband, that has sav'd that Clod-pated, Num-skull'd Ninny's hammer of yours from Ruin, and all his Family? it is well known how he has roll'd early and sat up late to make him easy, when he was sitting at every Ale-house in Town

I knew his last Wife, she was a Woman of  
 Breeding, good Humour, and Complaisance,  
 knew how to live in the World; as for you,  
 you look like a Puppet mov'd by Clock-work;  
 your Cloaths hang upon you, as they were  
 upon Tenter-hooks, and you come into a  
 Room as you were going to steal away a Piss-  
 pot; get you gone into the Country to look  
 after your Mother's Poultry, to milk the  
 Cows, churn the Butter, and dress up Nose-  
 gays for a Holy-day; and meddle not with  
 Matters that you know no more of than the  
 Sign-post before your Door: It is well known  
 that my Husband has an establish'd Repu-  
 tation, he never swore an Oath, nor told a  
 Lie in all his Life: He is grateful to his Bene-  
 factors, faithful to his Friends, liberal to his  
 Dependants, and dutiful to his Superiours;  
 he values not your Money more than the  
 Dust under his Feet, but he hates to be a-  
 bus'd: Once for all, Mrs. *Mynx*, leave off  
 talking of my Husband, or I will pull out  
 these Saucer-Eyes of yours, and make that  
 red-streak Country-face look as raw as an Ox-  
 Cheek upon a Butcher's stall; remember, I say,  
 that there are Pillories and Ducking-stools.  
 With this away she flung, leaving Mrs. *Bull*  
 no Time to reply: No Stone was left untur-  
 ned to fright *John* from this Composition. Some-  
 times they spread Reports at Coffee-houses,  
 that

that *John* and his Wife were run mad ; that they intended to give up House, and make over all their Estate to Old *Lewis Baboon* ; that *John* had been often heard talking to himself and seen in the Streets without Shoes or Stockings ; that he did nothing from Morning to Night but beat his Servants, after having been the best Master alive : As for his Wife, she was a meer Natural. Sometimes *John's* House was beset with a whole Regiment of Attorneys Clerks, Bailiff and Bailiffs-Followers, and other small Retainers of the Law, who threw Stones at his Windows, and Dirt at himself, as he went along the Street. When *John* complain'd of Want of ready Money to carry on his Suit, they advis'd him to pawn his Plate and Jewels, and that *Mrs. Bull* should sell her Linnen and wearing Cloaths.



## C H A P. XIII.

*How the Lawyers agreed to send Don Diego Dismallo, the Conjuror, to John Bull, to dissuade him from making an End of his Law-Suit, and what pass'd between them.*

*Bull.* **H**OW does my good Friend *Don Diego*.

*Don.* Never worse. Who can be easie when their Friends are playing the Fool?

*Bull.* But then you may be easy, for I am resolv'd to play the Fool no longer: I wish I had hearkned to your Advice, and compounded this Law-Suit sooner.

*Don.* It is true; I was then against the ruinous Ways of this Law-Suit, but looking over my Scheme since, I find there is an Error in my Calculation. *Sol* and *Jupiter* were in a wrong House, but I have now discovered their true Places: I tell you I find that the stars are unanimously of Opinion, That you will

will be successful in this Cause; That *Levi* will cometo an untimely End, and *Strutt* will be turned out of Doors by his Wife and Children. Then he went on with a Torrent of Eclypticks, Cycles, Epicycles, Ascendants, Trines, Quadrants, Conjunctions, Bulls, Bears, Goats and Rams, and Abundance of hard Words, which being put together, signified nothing, *John* all this while stood gaping and staring like a Man in a Trance.

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F I N I S.